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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Update 1 – 4:30 p.m.

City working to make repair to spill off Pine Grove Drive

City crews and contractors are preparing to make a repair to a break in the Northeast Interceptor (NEI) sewer pipeline that was discovered this morning.

The break is about 800 feet to the west of Pine Grove Drive across the road from Pump Station 34. The break is in the swampy, wooded area near Hewlett's Creek. Pumper trucks are on site retrieving sewage flowing from the pipe.

Pine Grove Drive will be closed from Greenville Loop Road to Holly Tree Road tonight and tomorrow morning so that tanker trucks and other equipment can be assembled to make the repair.

Because there is no other pipe to divert the waste water to, repairs cannot begin until waste water flowing through the pipe is at its lowest point, usually from about midnight to around 5 a.m. No estimate of the amount of sewage spilled is yet available, but city officials anticipate the spill will be very significant. Estimates will be provided as they become available.

This afternoon, crews have been preparing the site to begin work on the repair. The swampy location of the break makes repair efforts more difficult and time consuming because a temporary road into the swamp will have to be built so heavy equipment can get to the scene, and the repair area itself will have to be continuously pumped free of water so that workers can get to the pipe to make the repair.

Services to drinking water or waste water have not been affected. However, as a precaution, the city recommends that citizens not come into contact with the water. Updates will be provided as information becomes available.

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For more information, contact city Public Information Officer Malissa Talbert at 342-2736 or 470-8720.